Who's on Project Management?

Writing on the eve of the World Series, what better way to spur thought on communication than to have Abbott and Costello throw out the first pitch?

Costello: Abbott, if we are going to develop quality software, we need to know the development team.
Abbott: We certainly do. Who is the project manager, What is the designer, I Don't Know is the programmer...
Costello: That is what I want to find out.
Abbott: Yes, Who is the project manager, What is the designer, I Don't Know is the programmer...
Costello: They are our development team and you don't know their names?
Abbott: Well I should.
Costello: Well then, who is the project manager?
Abbott: Yes.
Costello: The project manager's name?
Abbott: Who.
Costello: The woman managing...
Abbott: Who is managing the project!
Costello: I'm asking you, who is managing the project?
Abbott: That's the woman's name.
Costello: That's whose name?
Abbott: Yes.

Costello: All I'm trying to find out is what the woman's name is managing the project.
Abbott: No, What is the designer.
Costello: I'm not asking about design.
Abbott: Well, don't change the team.
Costello: I'm not changing anybody! I am only asking you, who is the woman managing the project?
Abbott: That's right.

Costello: What's the woman's name managing the project?
Abbott: No, What is the designer.
Costello: I'm not asking you who is designing the software.
Abbott: Who is managing the project.
Costello: I don't know.
Abbott: He's the programmer.
Costello: Now how did we get on the programmer?
Abbott: You mentioned his name.
Costello: If I mentioned his name, who did I say is programming?
Abbott: No, Who's managing the project.
Costello: What's managing the project?
Abbott: What's designing software.
Costello: I don't know.
Abbott: He's programming.

Costello: Look, do you have an SEPG?
Abbott: Sure.
Costello: The SEPG Leader's name?
Abbott: Why.
Costello: I just thought I'd ask.
Abbott: Well, I just thought I'd tell.
Costello: Then tell me who leads the SEPG.

Abbott: Who's managing the project; she can't do both.
Costello: Stay out of management! I want to know what's the person's name leading the SEPG?
Abbott: No, What is designing software.
Costello: I'm not asking you who's designing the software.
Abbott: Who's managing the project!
Costello: I don't know.
Together: Programming!

Costello: Look, do you have a configuration manager on this team?
Abbott: Sure.
Costello: The configuration manager's name?
Abbott: Tomorrow.
Costello: You won't tell me today?
Abbott: I'm telling you now.
Costello: Then go ahead.
Abbott: Tomorrow!
Costello: What time tomorrow are you telling me who's managing the software configuration?
Abbott: Who is not managing the software configuration. She is managing the project.
Costello: I'll break your arm if you say who's managing the project one more time! I want to know what's the configuration manager's name?
Abbott: What's designing software.
Costello: I don't know.
Together: Programming!

Costello: Do you have a customer rep?
Abbott: Certainly.
Costello: The rep's name?
Abbott: Today.
Costello: So an ornery customer throws a curveball requirement at me. I pick up the requirement and take it to who?
Abbott: Now that's the first thing you've said right.
Costello: I don't even know what I said!
Costello: I take the requirement to Who. Who picks up the requirement and gives it to What. What gives design requirements to I Don't Know. I Don't Know notifies Tomorrow of the change. Another customer gets up and gives Today a requirement. Why? I don't know! He's programming and I don't give a darn!
Abbott: Oh, that's our test engineer.

Developing software can be complicated but you can't get to first base without good communication.

Who's your Project Manager? I hope it's not I Don't Know or I Don't Give a Darn.

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